

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: MONTANA
GRANT TITLE: Trumpeter Swan Recovery in the Blackfoot Valley, Montana
AGREEMENT: T – 33 – R - 1
PERIOD COVERED: October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008

Objective

The objective of this project is to introduce captive-reared trumpeter swans to suitable habitat in the Blackfoot Valley, Montana in an attempt to establish a resident flock comprising at least 7 established breeding pairs.

Location

The project will be conducted in and around the Blackfoot Valley, Montana.

Accomplishments

Releases of captive-reared trumpeters in the Blackfoot:

- On May 2, May 28, and June 28, 2008, a total of 42 trumpeter swans were released on five different sites in the Blackfoot Valley. One of these sites, the Blackfoot Waterfowl Production Area, is open to public access so provides opportunities for the public to view and photograph these birds. Other release sites were on private land within a few miles of the town of Ovando, Powell County, Montana.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel, state/federal/Tribal agency personnel from Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, as well as local ranchers, and bird observers continue to report observations of trumpeter releases as part of the Blackfoot reintroduction program which began in 2005. Bird movements are being tracked and records maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Great Falls (Vanessa Fields, Wildlife Biologist, Benton Lake NWR, 922 Bootlegger Trail, Great Falls, MT 59404, (406) 727-7400 x 219, Vanessa_fields@fws.gov).
- Prior to the beginning of the migration of the Blackfoot trumpeters in the fall of 2008, 40 of the 42 birds released in 2008 were alive and accounted for. Two of the 42 were reported as found dead earlier in the year. Primary winter observations of the birds released in 2007 and before have come primarily from the Snake River Valley in Idaho. Two reports of Blackfoot-released birds this year came from the Blackfeet Reservation near Browning, Montana and another from south of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

- Although trumpeters have not been observed nesting in the Blackfoot since reintroductions began in 2005, at least two trumpeters released in the Blackfoot prior to 2008 were observed to molt in the Blackfoot during the summer of 2008. This behavior has been observed in other reintroduction areas and known to be an important milestone in the progression toward nest initiations in the area in subsequent years.

Variances and Future Plans

All release objectives for this grant were accomplished; however, the grant duration was insufficient to fully evaluate program success. For this reason, continuing project work (to include additional releases and observations) will be accomplished in 2009 and beyond under future segments of SWG Grant # T-37-HM.

Expenditure Recap:

Proposed Expenditures:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	24,000.00		24,000.00		48,000.00
Indirect Costs	3,849.60		3,849.60		7,699.20
Total	27,849.60	50.0%	27,849.60	50.0%	55,699.20

Actual Expenditures:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	23,808.03		27,849.60		51,657.63
Indirect Costs	4,041.57				4,041.57
Total	27,849.60	50.0%	27,849.60	50.0%	55,699.20

Actual Direct Expenditures:

Captive Rearing of 15 Trumpeter Swans	23,281.53
Travel	466.50
Other Expenses	60.00
Total	23,808.03

Actual Match Sources:

Egg Collection, Captive rearing, Aerial Flights	24,704.60
In-kind (staff, travel, round-ups, monitoring)	3,145.00
Total	27,849.60

Project Personnel

Name	Title	Phone	Email
Tom Hinz	MT Wetlands Legacy Coordinator	406-994-7889	thinz@mt.gov
Greg Neudecker	Blackfoot Challenge/PFFW Prog.	406-793-7400	Greg_Neudecker@fws.gov
Adam Brooks	Federal Aid Program Manager	406-444-3032	abrooks@mt.gov